

"The shells for necklaces are of a brilliant pearly blue: they are perforated by means of the eye-teeth, and are strung on a kangaroo sinew; they are then exposed to the action of pyroligneous acid, in the smoke of brushwood covered up with grass; and in this smoke they are turned and rubbed till the external coat comes off, after which they are polished with oil obtained from the penguin or the mutton-bird' (Backhouse, p. 84). Davies says the shells were polished with grease and sand (p. 418). According to Calder (Journ. p. 23) in their captivity to get rid of the outer crust 'they used vinegar. I think a moderate heat was necessary in removing this outer covering, for, on visiting their huts when they were preparing [145] them, a woman handed me a saucer of them, which she took from the fireplace.' The necklaces are thus described by Mrs. Meredith (p. 146): 'A pretty little white Columbella, common here, used to be much collected by the female aborigines, for making necklaces; some of which were several yards long, formed of these little shells neatly bored, and strung closely on kangaroo sinews, and were worn by their sable owners twisted many times round the neck, and hanging low over the breast. '"